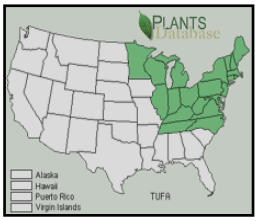
Coltsfoot *Tussilago farfara L.*

Common Names: coughwort, assfoot, horsefoot, foalfoot, bull's-foot, horsehoof, colt-herb, clayweed, cleats, dove-dock, dummyweed, ginger, gingerroot, hoofs, sowfoot, British tobacco, gowan

Native Origin: A native of Europe, this plant is believed to be brought to this country by early settlers for its medicinal properties.

Description: Coltsfoot is a perennial herb in the Aster family (Asteraceae). Solitary flowers are dandelion-like and bright yellow in color. There are several scaly white flower stalks per plant. Flowers emerge before the leaves in early spring through June growing 3 to 12 inches in height. Brown nutlets are attached to a pappus resembling the white fluffy seed heads of common dandelion. The heart-shaped (cordate) leaves appear after flowers have matured. Leaves are 3 to 7 inches wide, slightly toothed, upright and the underside is whitish. They arise directly from the root with no main stem present. Coltsfoot reproduces both vegetatively and sexually. The roots can remain dormant underground for long periods of time.

Habitat: Coltsfoot thrives in low-lying mesic areas including stream banks, moist field or pastures, roadsides, and disturbed areas. It can also be found in drier sites and in poor soils. It is intolerant of shade and is not commonly found in wooded areas, though it has been documented invading forests following fire.



Distribution: This species is reported from states shaded on Plants Database map. It is reported invasive in CT, ME, NC, NJ, and TN.

Ecological Impacts: Plant can be very competative and may have the capacity to invade natural communities along disturbance corridors, or to spread from stands in disturbed sites into undisturbed areas.

Control and Management:

- **Manual**- Initial infestations may be controlled by hand pulling to remove the entire plant.
- **Chemical**- It can be effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as glyphosate. Treat in summer when the leaves of coltsfoot are fully developed. Follow label and state requirements.

References: www.invasive.org, www.hort.purdue.edu, www.weedmapper.org/tufa.html www.forestryimages.org/search/action.cfm?q=coltsfoot

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Invasive Plants website: http://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/invasive_plants